



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8**

1595 Wynkoop Street  
DENVER, CO 80202-1129  
Phone 800-227-8917  
<http://www.epa.gov/region08>

Date: 10/15/2009

From: Tien H. Nguyen, OSC  
David Romero, OSC  
8PAER-EPR-ER

To: EPA Headquarters  
John Irizarry  
Eugene Lee

Subject: POLREP # 1, Initial POLREP  
Highway 89 Storage Units Site  
2100 Hwy 89, Perry, UT 84302 and  
8823 Hwy 89, S. Willard, UT 84340  
Perry/S. Willard, Box Elder County, Utah  
Latitude: 41° 27' 48" and 41° 24' 30"  
Longitude: 112° 02' 04" and 112° 02' 10"

**ABSTRACT**

Site #:	08SK	Response Authority:	CERCLA
NPL Status:	NA	Incident Category:	Fund-lead
CERCLIS ID #:	UTN 000802790	RCRIS ID#:	
Reporting Period:	10/09/09 to 10/15/09	Response Type:	Classic Emergency
Contaminant of Concern:		Contaminated Area:	Storage units
Action Memo. Date:	NA	Start Date:	10/09/09
Removal Mob. Date:	NA	Removal Compl. Date:	TBD
DO#:		Removal Ceiling:	NA

**1.1.1 Incident Category: Fund Lead**

This classic emergency removal was initiated on October 9, 2009, after the Region 8 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA/8) received notification from the Box Elder County (CO) Sheriff office that numerous drums of old Thiokol chemicals used to make rocket propellants were being stored in storage units at two locations in the towns of Perry and South-Willard, in Utah. An EPA/8 On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) and START team responded to the Site to assist the County with Site Assessment and in determining extent of situation and appropriate response action(s).

**1.1.2 Site Description**

**1.1.2.1 Location**

The Highway 89 Storage Units Site is located at two locations: 2100 Hwy 89, Perry, UT 84302 and 8823 Hwy 89, S. Willard, UT 84340 in Box Elder County, Utah.

#### 1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A former Thiokol employee who is currently retired and in his late 80s apparently collected materials from Thiokol during his employment, including propellant materials such as binders, oxidizers, highly dangerous reactive materials, and flammable liquids and fuels, which he stored in seven rental storage units at the two above storage locations.

#### 1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

The County Sheriff's detective escorted the OSC and START team to visit seven suspected storage units. All these storage units are stacked with drums, containers, bags of chemicals or other materials as well as equipment, merchandises, furniture and junks. Some units are with strong odors of chemical vapors.

#### 2.1.1 Narrative

#### 2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The Site has been fenced and secured 24/7 by the local police. By Oct. 10, 2009, more than 100 drums and containers had been inventoried and categorized including flammable liquids, highly reactive metals such as magnesium and aluminum powders, and oxidizers. One drum was half-full of solid high-energy slow-burning rocket propellant and black powder. At EPA's request, this drum was immediately picked up and detonated by the County Bomb Squad in a nearby field.

On Oct. 14, 2009, the County Sheriff office notified the OSC that additional chemicals, possibly including hydrazine were found at the Thiokol employee's residence and the County's detective requested EPA to conduct this residence as soon as possible. The OSC and START member will visit the residence with police's escort today Oct. 15, 2009.

#### 2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identifications of PRPs

The Site has been investigated under the warrant obtained by the Box Elder County's Criminal Division. An Order had been sent to the former Thiokol employee by the Box Elder County. However, other PRPs have not been identified; EPA's response and site assessment will likely result an inventory list of chemicals stored on Site which will be provided to enforcement for further potential PRPs identification.

#### 2.1.4 Progress Metrics

#### 2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

##### 2.2.1.1 Planned Response Activities

EPA's START contractor and County Haz-Mat team will continue inventorying and categorizing the containers during the week of October 12 and it is anticipated that this work will continue into the next week. Thiokol has not been contacted by EPA, possibly not until all containers are inventoried.

##### 2.2.1.2 Next Steps

Complete a list of inventory for chemicals present on Site and segregation of drums as needed. EPA plans to have its ERRS contractor be on Site next week to initiate a plan for transportation and disposal of the chemicals.

#### 2.2.2 Issues: None

